

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 W

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P 290935 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9298

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 788

STADIS EXDIS////////////////////////////////////

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCON, IR, CE

SUBJ: DEP SEC VISIT TO SOUTH ASIA: SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY SISCO FROM AMBASSADOR

REF STATE 54134; STATE 54135; COLOMBO 766

1. SRI LANKA GOVERNMENT HAS TOLD US THAT DEPSEC RUSH, ASSISTANT SEC SISCO, AND CERTAIN OTHER MEMBERS OF PARTY WILL BE CONSIDERED AS OFFICIAL GUESTS. WE WILL NOT KNOW WHAT THIS INVOLVES UNTIL WE TALK OVER SCHEDULE WITH GSL BUT WE, OF COURSE, MAY HAVE TO ADJUST PROGRAM TO MEET GSL PREFERENCES. IN ANY CASE, SINCE RUSH- SISCO PARTY WILL HAVE BEEN THROUGH ARDUOUS TRIP BEFORE REACHING COLOMBO, AND SINCE AT PRESENT THERE ARE NO MAJOR PROBLEMS BETWEEN US AND GSL, WE WOULD PROPOSE TO TRY TO KEEP OFFICIAL ACTIVITY TO MINIMUM AND RESERVE LARGE SHARE OF TIME FOR REST AND RECREATION. WITH FOREGOING CONSIDERATIONS IN MIND, FOLLOWING ARE OUR SUGGESTIONS:

SUNDAY, APRIL 29 , 8 PM

INFORMAL " FAMILY DINNER " AT THE RESIDENCE FOR MOST OF GROUP AND SOME OF MISSION PERSONNEL.

MONDAY, APRIL 30, 0830 AM

DEP SEC RUSH AND ASSISTANT SEC SISCO MEET BRIEFLY WITH MISSION STAFF AT CHANCERY.

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0915 AM DEPSEC AND ASSISSEC SISCO CALL ON PM (WHO IS ALSO MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS) AT TEMPLE TREES, HER OFFICIAL RESIDENCE, WHICH IS LESS THAN FIVE MINUTES FROM CHANCERY. THIS APPOINTMENT ALREADY SET BY GSL.

1030 AM

ENTIRE PARTY DEPARTS FOR BENTOTA, A VERY ATTRACTIVE BEACH AREA SOUTH OF COLOMBO. WE BELIEVE WE CAN ARRANGE PRIVATE RAILROAD CAR. OTHERWISE, TRIP WOULD BE MADE BY AUTOMOBILE OR AIR-CONDITIONED BUS.

12 NOON (APPROX)

ARRIVAL AT BENTOTA BEACH HOTEL. LUNCH AND SWIMMING IN OCEAN, IF CALM ENOUGH, OR IN HOTEL'S OUTDOOR POOL.

4:30 PM

DEPARTURE FOR COLOMBO

6 PM (APPROX)

ARRIVAL AT COLOMBO

8:15 PM

PM OR OTHER HIGH GSL OFFICAIL MAY WISH GIVE DINNER. OTHERWISE AMBASSADOR WOULD PROPOSE DINNER AT RESIDENCE WITH KEY CEYLONSE FIGURES.

TUESDAY, MAY 1

7 AM

DEPARTURE FROM COLOMBO FOR BANDARANAIKE AIRPORT

8 AM

DEPARTURE FOR HONG KONG

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2. UNLESS GSL WISHES ACCOMMODATE RUSHES AND SISCOS IN OFFICAL

LODGINGS, AMB AND MRS. VAN HOLLEN WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO HAVE RUSHES AND SISCOS STAY WITH THEM AT THE RESIDENCE.

3. RE STATE 54135, WE WOULD PROPOSE THAT LADIES BE INCLUDED IN ENTIRE PROGRAM EXCEPT FOR RUSH- SISCO VISIT TO CHANCERY AND CALL ON PRIME MINISTER.

4. ON WEATHER, METEOROLOGY DEPT INFORMS US THAT AT END APRIL TEMPERATURES THIS AREA RANGE BETWEEN 87 AND 92 DEGREES AND THERE ARE OCCASIONAL AFTERNOON AND EVENING THUNDERSHOWERS. POSSIBILITY OF DAWN SHOWERS ALSO EXISTS BUT SHOULD NOT HAVE BEARING ON VISIT.

5. CONCERNING CLOTHING, ALL FUNCTIONS CAN BE KEPT INFORMAL, SO TUXEDOS WILL NOT BE NECESSARY. BUT LADIES WEAR LONG DRESSES (THE COMFORTABLE, CAUSUAL TYPE) AT ALL SOCIAL GATHERINGS IN COLOMBO FROM 6:30 PM ON. IF TRIP TO BENTOTA BEACH IS ACCEPTED, BATHING SUITS SHOULD OF COURSE BE BROUGHT ALONG. MEN SHOULD ALSO HAVE SPORT SHIRTS.

VAN HOLLEN

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